

2004 NATIVE FAMILY WELLNESS
CONFERENCE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an outstanding collaboration taking place between organizations of the Yankton Sioux Tribe and the neighboring town of Wagner—the Native Family Wellness Conference. This 3-day initiative is the result of the tireless work and cooperation among the Boys and Girls Club of the Yankton Sioux, Brave Heart Society, Canku Teca Treatment Center, and the Indian Health Service's Wagner Service Unit. In particular, I want to commend Faith Spotted Eagle, Jenny Noteboom, and Amy Schwenk-Doom for their leadership in this effort.

As we know all too well, the lack of quality health care in Indian Country is having a devastating impact on the health of far too many Native Americans. The availability of only "life or limb" treatment in our IHS hospitals has heightened the importance of health and wellness education in Native American communities, and I applaud the initiative demonstrated by this collaborative in developing the Native Family Wellness Conference.

The great leader Sitting Bull once said: "Come, let us put our minds together and see what kind of life we can make for our children." The Native Family Wellness Conference embodies Sitting Bull's hope for the future by teaching children, both Native and non-Native, about the importance of health and wellness in both their cultural heritage and personal future.

Children and families will have the opportunity to learn about the effects of diet, drug abuse, and exercise on personal and family wellness during a series of breakout sessions on April 29 and 30. Those who participate in the sessions will be invited to join a fun run/walk with the Lakota Olympian Billy Mills and a concert by the band Brule of Lower Brule.

Billy Mills and his organization, Running Strong for American Indian Youth, have dedicated almost 20 years to providing Native Americans with the tools needed for survival and to build self-esteem and self-sufficiency. Billy Mills' participation in this conference demonstrates the importance of this collaboration, and I also want to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the health and well-being of Native Americans.

In recent months, countless organizations from the Yankton Sioux Tribe and Wagner have joined in support of the Native Family Wellness Conference. The Bureau of Indian Affairs police department, Fort Randall Casino and Hotel, Indian Health Services Diabetes Project, Native American Community Board, Lewis and Clark Mental Health Services, Marty Indian School, Wagner School District, Wellmark Foundation, the Yankton Sioux Tribe's Business and Claims Committee, Tribal Health Program, Healthy Start Program, Housing Authority, Tribal

Courts, and Tribal Youth Program have also contributed their time and talents to the conference. These organizations and their members are to be commended for their involvement in this important event.

Our children are our greatest resource, and the Native Family Wellness Conference is a great investment in the health of our future generations. That is why I am proud to honor this outstanding effort.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN CARMAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to LCpl Benjamin Robert Carman who bravely gave his life for our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I offer my deepest sympathy to his parents, Marie and Nelson, as well as his siblings; James, Catherine, and Amelia. LCpl Carman was killed in action by small arms fire during combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Tuesday, April 6, 2004.

LCpl Carman is the eleventh Iowan to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I appreciate his faithful service to our country and the patriotic mission that he died supporting. The attitude that Ben had toward his military service was summarized by his pastor at his funeral: "Ben died because he loved freedom. He died because he loved justice." LCpl Carman was not afraid to courageously serve his country and accomplish his duty. As an Iowan, I am proud of this exemplary young man who will be missed by many.

Ben Carman graduated from Jefferson-Scranton High School in 2002 where he excelled in the industrial arts, winning first in the State on several occasions in the sheet metal category of an industrial skills contest. He also participated in football and golf and was well loved by his classmates. Ben also loved the outdoors and his hobbies included fishing, hunting and camping. He was a proud Marine who proved himself to be a true hero and patriot. LCpl Ben Carman lived out the Marine motto, *Semper Fidelis*, always faithful, and is a credit to his State and to his country. I again express my sympathy for Ben's family and my gratitude for his courageous service.

VETERANS SHOULD RECEIVE
TIMELY ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I recognize the dedication of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, PVA, and their support of spinal cord injury research. Through their Spinal Cord Research Foundation, PVA support has aided researchers in making huge advances in this crucial field.

Last Friday, in conjunction with PVA Awareness Week 2004, three spinal cord injury researchers detailed the contributions PVA has made toward improving treatment for and, hopefully, eventually ending paralysis. Ste-

phen G. Waxman, M.D., Ph.D., professor and chairman of neurology at Yale University, discussed "Protecting and Repairing the Spinal Cord: Gifts from the Molecular Revolution." Among other topics, Dr. Waxman discussed how his lab had created chronic neuropathic pain in a rat, which the lab was then able to successfully "turn off" and "turn on" through chemical manipulations.

Mindy L. Aisen, M.D., the deputy chief research and development officer and rehabilitation research and development service director for the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, addressed "Spinal Cord Injury Research: The VA Perspective." She spoke about the large scope of VA research, which extends well beyond spinal cord dysfunction. She specifically discussed the diaphragmatic pacer used by Christopher Reeve, which was invented at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, and she noted the wound healing studies conducted by VA.

Alessandro Ghidini, M.D., a specialist in high-risk pregnancies and director of perinatal research for the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Georgetown University Medical Center, spoke about "Obstetrical Outcomes of Women with Spinal Cord Injury." Dr. Ghidini is just beginning a PVA research foundation grant to document the obstetrical experiences of 60 women with spinal cord injuries, and she talked about the main concerns that arise when these two major conditions interact; complications from both can create a number of medical emergencies that healthcare professionals and women with spinal cord injuries must know about in order to carefully and successfully manage them.

These medical professionals demonstrated the great strides the PVA Spinal Cord Research Foundation has helped to make in alleviating the hardships of paralysis, and they provided a glimpse into the promising future of spinal cord injury research.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT
OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

Chicago police issued a community warning the week of April 5, 2004, alerting North Side residents of slayings of two gay men under similar circumstances. The bodies of Kevin Clewer and Brad Nelson were found in their apartments in March and August, respectively, with multiple stab wounds, police said.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement